Lifting of the freeze on Cotton Exports

4549. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) wheher it is a fact that Government have lifted the freeze on export of raw cotton ;

(b) when was the export of raw cotton frozen last ; and

(c) what are the reasons for lifting the freeze?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export of contracted quantities of raw cotton was suspended on 9-2-94.

(c) The step was taken to honour contracted export commitments. Government have also taken a number of steps to improve fibre availability in the country. These steps include placing cotton imports under Open General Licence with Zero import duty as also import of 30,000 MT of Viscose Staple Fibre on concessional import duty.

International Conference on Wool

4550. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : SHRI AHMED MOHAMEDBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 400 wool growers, manufacturers and experts from the World over held and International conference in the month of March, 1994 ;

(b) if so, how many countries participated in the conference ; and

(c) what were the main subjects discussed in the conference and the decisions arrived at therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Indian Woollen Mills' Federation, Bombay organised the 63rd International Wool Textiles Conference at New Delhi in the month of March, 1994. It was attended by over 400 delegates.

(b) 26 countries participated in the conference.

(c) As per the information received from IWMF the following subjects were discussed :—

1. Wool marketing policy of the grower countries like Australia. New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay and the United Kingdom.

2. Raw wool specifications and physical and chemical aspects of processing of wool.

3. Primary Processors Group covering, scouring and combing.

4. Production and trading in yarn and fabrics on a global basis.

5. Contracts and commercial regulations.

6. Statistics for the world wollen industry.

Improving the Quality of Cotton

4551. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an urgent need for improving the quality of cotton which has been rated as one of the most contaminated cotton in the world by International agencies ;

(b) whether according to the experts, contamination in the Indian cotton includes coloured thread, human hair and many extraneous material thrown in the cotton after picking or during transportation ;

(c) if so, what are the steps being taken to improve the quality of cotton which has been largely rejected by the foreign countries ;

(d) whether Seminars on the cotton perspective on quality and development being held in India ; and

(e) what are the other measures being taken to improve the quality of the cotton in India?